(b) Internet Services were started only in August, 1995 on a limited scale. It is not possible to estimate possible revenue loss on this account. The loss, however, is expected to be a small one.

(c) At the application stage the Internet user is made to sign an agreement giving a commitment for not using Internet Telephony. His connection can be disconnected for violation of agreement.

Increase in Compensation Amount

*327 DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the compensation to be paid to the victims of rail accidents including incidents like sabotage, bomb blast etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of accidents due to sabotage during 1997;

(d) whether the Government have referred any case of sabotage for CBI inquiry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Keeping in view the rise in Consumer Price Index, a proposal is under consideration to increase the amount of compensation to be paid to the dependents of deed and injured rail passengers and platform ticket holders who are involved in train accidents or untoward incidents as defined under Sections 124 and 124-A of the Railways Act, 1989.

(c) Due to sabotage five derailments have taken place during 1997.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Interest Rate on Loans for Wind Energy Projects

*328. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total loan given for setting up Wind Energy Projects during the Eighth Plan;

(b) whether the interest rate has been reduced on the loan so given;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the date from which the reduced rate of interest are likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) A total loan amount of Rs. 461.25 crores was provided by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources, for setting up wind power projects during the Eighth Five Year Plan. In addition, other Financial Institutions and Commercial banks also provide loans for commercial wind power projects.

(b) to (d) IREDA have revised their interest rate for wind power projects, sanctioned on or after 7.6.97. The details of interest rates for wind power projects are given below :

	Scheme	Interest Rate (p.a.) Exclusive of Interest Tax	Revised Interest Rate (p.a.) Exclusive of Interest Tax
1.	Project Financing		
	(a) International Funds	16.5%	15.5%
	(b) IREDA Funds	17.0%	16.0%
2.	Equipment Financing	17.0%	17.0%

FICCI Report on Telecom

*329. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any report from the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the future of Telecommunication and information technology in India;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) The Report has been received on 6th August, 1997. The Report deals with various aspects of development of the telecom sector in India. It enunciates a strategy for the development of the telecom sector in the country covering both services and manufacturing by following a four point strategy, namely:

(a) a international vision and developing a global mindset;

(b) Increasing substantially the telecom market in India;

(c) Developing global levels of competitiveness by the industry; and

(d) Enlightened and imaginative policy framework by the Government.